

January 2, 1963

Dear Russell,

Please be nice enough to
send me ten copies of the page
or pages on which the Williamson
review of The Fantastic 1804
Dollar occurs.

From the desk of
ERIC P. NEWMAN

January 7, 1963

Miss Jane Clark
Feature Editor
St. Louis Globe Democrat
12th Blvd. at Delmar
St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Miss Clark:

We have published a book entitled "The Fantastic 1804 Dollar" showing that the most valuable American coin is not genuine. This should be of particular importance to you because a St. Louisan, Eric P. Newman, wrote the text after several years of research. It might make a very interesting feature story for your public.

The most recent sale of the coin was for \$29,000 and it is known as the "King of American Coins". The book shows the 1804 coin to have been secretly made in 1834 and 1858 at the U. S. Mint, and proves it was not made in 1804. Affidavits about the coin by government officials are shown to be false and deliberately misleading. Although the book is heralded as a numismatic classic it is filled with humor and intrigue. A copy of the book will be given to you by Mr. Newman if you ask him and will give you any further information or pictures you might wish.

Mr. Eric P. Newman, as you may know, is an attorney and Secretary of Edison Brothers Stores, Inc. As a hobby he is a numismatic writer, world traveller and lecturer.

We hope you find the foregoing of interest.

Very truly yours,

January 8, 1963

Miss Jane Clark
Feature Editor
St. Louis Globe Democrat
12th Boulevard at Delmar
St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Miss Clark:

We have published a book entitled THE FANTASTIC 1804 DOLLAR showing that the most valuable American coin is not genuine. This should be of particular importance to you because a St. Louisan, Eric P. Newman, wrote the text after several years of research. It might make a very interesting feature story for your public.

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Mr. Eric P. Newman, as you may know, is an attorney and Secretary of Edison Brothers Stores, Inc. As a hobby he is a numismatic writer, world traveller and lecturer.

We hope you find the foregoing of interest.

Sincerely,

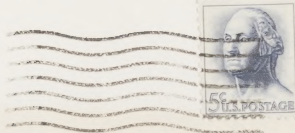
WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

Kenneth E. Bressett
Numismatic Editor

KEB:jam

encl. copy of news release on book

1/9/63



Mr. Eric Newman
6450 Cecil Ave.
St. Louis, Missouri

Memorandum From —

HARRIET D. LOEB

Dear Eric —
I've been
meaning to send
you this since
"last year" —

Bravo!

Love to Evelyn, too.

King of the American Rarities

Mystery Still Surrounds 1804 Silver Dollar

By Robert Obojski

Parma, Ohio

The United States silver dollar of 1804 has long been known as the "King of American Rarities," not only because of its scarcity (only 15 authentic specimens are known to be extant), but also because of the mystery surrounding this coin.

One of the most intriguing facets of the 1804 dollar is that throughout its history it has always been one of the most desired coins among numismatists everywhere. Whenever one of these coins has appeared at auction, it has almost always set records for the highest price paid for a single coin.

A particularly choice specimen brought no less than \$29,000 at a 1961 New York auction, the record purchase price for one coin.

Each new sale has always stirred the imagination of newspaper reporters, numismatic writers, and all collectors, whether or not they ever

silver dollars were issued for general circulation between 1804 and 1840.)

Elias Boudinot, Director of the Mint, stopped the coinage of silver dollars in 1804 to prevent their exportation because their face value was less than their bullion value.

Dies were probably made for the 1804 dollar, and a number of experts theorize that a quantity of dollars was actually struck in 1804, but thrown right back into the melting pot when the "stop order" came from Director Boudinot.

A battery of experts on the subject have proven almost conclusively that the 1804 dollars were produced in the 1836-42 experimental period because they differ significantly from the 1803 variety, and conform more closely to the designs of those pieces coined in the 1840's.

It has never been fully explained why the 1804 date has been inscribed on these coins—

one coin. (We should add here, however, that this volume also traces the early history of United States coinage.)

Messrs. Newman and Bressett track down the complete story of the 1804 dollar like a couple of detectives, and they conclude the volume with a comprehensive "pedigree" of each of the 15 known 1804's. They list everyone who has ever owned any one of the famous 15, including the present owners.

At least three of the 1804's are on permanent public display. Two specimens belonging to the United States Mint's Cabinet are exhibited at the Smithsonian Institution's Coin Hall in Washington, D.C., while the Chase Manhattan Bank's Museum of Moneys of the World in New York City has the famous Rosenthal specimen on exhibit.

Authors Newman and Bressett comment in their preface to "The Fantastic 1804 Dollar" that they try to write "the last word on the subject," but they qualify this statement by saying, "This may be just an idle dream."



Whitman Publishing Co.

An 1804 silver dollar

hoped to own such a coin. A New York auctioneer will feature an 1804 dollar in a major sale scheduled for some time early in 1963. Many dealers and collectors feel that the \$29,000 "price barrier" may be broken at this sale.

Oddly enough, United States silver dollars were probably not struck at all in 1804, though published official Philadelphia Mint records show that 19,570 of them were coined in that year. Most numismatists now agree that the 1804 total for dollars actually covered those which were dated 1803. (The 1803 dollar is quite common.)

It is now generally believed that the 1804 dollars were struck at the mint between 1836 and 1842, during the period when Christian Gobrecht, assistant to the chief engraver, was creating his well-known patterns in preparation for the issue of silver dollars. (No

and herein lies one of the mysteries.

Nevertheless, a few "hard-core" numismatic experts believe that at least seven 1804 dollars were struck in that year and saved for assay purposes, making these "1804 originals." This school tries to prove its case by maintaining the "originals" were indeed produced in 1804 because they resemble the 1803's.

Interest in the 1804 silver dollar question has reached so high a level in the past two or three years that two of the best-known experts on the subject, Eric P. Newman and Kenneth E. Bressett, wrote a whole book on the coin, "The Fantastic 1804 Dollar" (Whitman Publishing Co., Racine, Wis., 1962, 144 pp., \$3.50).

This is some kind of milestone in numismatic writing since never before has a full-length book been written on

January 15, 1963

Mr. Lynn Glaser
3012 Joshua Road
Lafayette Hill, Penna.

Dear Lynn:

Your sense of humor in the article in Numismatic News about The Fantastic 1804 Dollar is as priceless as the coin itself. If the book had been published before the Siam specimen was announced there would not have been anything funny about the matter. We could have entitled our book "The Near Miss" and you could have described it as "the most monumental defective job in numismatics". I am sure that all of us appreciate the work done by one another. If you met Ken through the 1804 Dollar that in itself is enough to make the Dollars important.

You were certainly a Good Samaritan to say such nice things about my "Good Samaritan" book.

Keep up your stimulating and refreshing articles in "Numismatically Speaking".

Kindest personal regards,

Sincerely,

ERIC P. HEWMAN

EPN/atb

cc: Kenneth Bressett

January 15, 1963

Mr. Lynn Glaser
3012 Joshua Road
Lafayette Hill, Penna.

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Your sense of humor in the article in Numismatic News about The Fantastic 1804 Dollar is as priceless as the coin itself. If the book had been published before the Siam specimen was announced there would not have been anything funny about the matter. We could have entitled our book "The Near Miss" and you could have described it as "the most monumental defective job in numismatics". I am sure that all of us appreciate the work done by one another. If you met Ken through the 1804 Dollar that in itself is enough to make the Dollars important.

You were certainly a Good Samaritan to say such nice things about my "Good Samaritan" book.

Keep up your stimulating and refreshing articles in "Numismatically Speaking".

Kindest personal regards,

Sincerely,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb


cc: Kenneth Bressett

January 22, 1963

Dear Mr. Bolender:

Thank you for your Dollar
Price Sheet and also for the
nice things you said about "The
Fantastic".

Cordially,



Mr. M. H. Bolender
P. O. Box 63
San Marino, California

From the desk of
ERIC P. NEWMAN

M. H. BOLENDER

NUMISMATIST

DEALER IN RARE COINS AND PAPER MONEY
IN MY 55th NUMISMATIC YEAR

P. O. Box 63

SAN MARINO, CALIF.

MEMBER OF
LOS ANGELES COIN CLUB
ORANGE COUNTY COIN CLUB
SAN GABRIEL VALLEY COIN CLUB
MONTEREY PARK COIN CLUB
COMPTON COIN CLUB
NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MEMBER OF
CENTRAL STATES
NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION
CALIFORNIA STATE
NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION
GLENDALE COIN CLUB
FREEPORT (ILLINOIS) COIN CLUB
CHICAGO COIN CLUB

January 18, 1963

Mr. Eric P. Newman,
6450 Cecil Ave.,
St. Louis 5, Mo.,

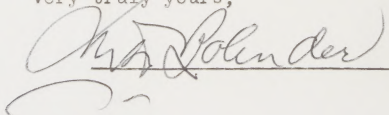
Dear Mr. Newman:

Your letter of the 16th at hand yesterday. I was happy to hear from you again. Especially do I thank you for your book on the Fantastic 1804 Dollar, an autographed copy of which I received from Ken Bressett, and which I have enjoyed so much. You did a magnificent job, and I have no criticism of your work, only praise for you, and what you did in time of need.

I enclose a copy of the 1961 revised price list on the old dollars. This should be revised again, as those prices are out of step now. The chief thing that makes these old dollars go up, is not so much the specialists, but the demand for nice examples of most any of them, to be used in type sets, which are in growing demand.

With kindest personal regards I remain,

Very truly yours,



M. H. Bolender

PS- I know absolutely nothing about Mr. Hurlbut's list, so cannot help you on this.

January 28, 1963

Miss Lucinda Benzel
St. Louis Globe-Democrat
12th and Delmar
St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Miss Benzel:

The diligence and work which you put into the article concerning the 1804 Dollar is most appreciated. I have had a great many calls already with respect to how interesting the article is. I realize how much patience went into its preparation.

Thank you, again, for your cooperation in reading the text to me.

Cordially yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

Erp/atb

January 24, 1963

Mr. Robert Goldberg
Evangeline Shoe Company
170 Lincoln
Manchester, New Hampshire

Dear Bob:

As long as you are stamping THE FANTASTIC
180th DOLLAR on the material I gave you, I
am sending you an additional piece so that
you can make a few more stampings.

I really appreciate your helpfulness in
this respect.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

January 31, 1963

Dr. Julian Blanchard
The Essay-Proof Society
1 Sheridan Square
New York 14, New York

Dear Dr. Blanchard:

Thank you for your nice comments about "The Fantasiatic 1804". I was responsible for sending it to you as you have been part of my education and enthusiasm in numismatics and I appreciate all that you have done in this worthy field.

Cordially,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

JULIAN BLANCHARD
President
1 Sheridan Square
New York 14, N. Y.

JOSEPH C. REINIS
First Vice President
50 Court Street
Brooklyn 1, N. Y.

RALPH R. WEAVER
40 Knightbridge Road,
Great Neck, L. I., N. Y.

KENNETH MINUSE
Secretary
1236 Grand Concourse
New York 56, N. Y.

MRS. RAE D. EHRENBURG
Treasurer
164 West 79 Street
New York 24, N. Y.

THE ESSAY-PROOF SOCIETY

January 27, 1963

Mr. Eric P. Newman
400 Washington Ave.
St. Louis 2, Mo.

Dear Eric:

This is a letter that I have been putting off for some time and I am rather ashamed of the putting off. It is about your fantastic book on "The Fantastic 1804 Silver Dollar".

A copy came to me from the publisher without any card in the parcel, but I could only assume that you were responsible for my getting it. And so to you go my thanks.

I heard your lecture on the subject at Atlanta and was pleased and impressed. And now I have read the book and am even more impressed - with all the good detective work and especially with your excellent presentation of the case.

I most heartily congratulate you and your colleagues, and I thank you much for my complimentary copy.

Most sincerely,

Julian B

Memo From -

KEN BRESSETT

Wallington reviewed the St. Louis Post
Dispatch - in both good publicity I
thought Glass could do a better
job in Minnesota than at all
other.

Good luck on the Globe Herald article



WHITMAN
PUBLISHING
COMPANY



Subsidiary of Western Publishing Company, Inc.

1220 MOUND AVENUE • RACINE, WISCONSIN

February 4, 1963

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis 5, Missouri

Dear Eric:

Congratulations on the top notch article which appeared in the Globe Democrat. I received your copy and one other from a friend in Hannibal. They did a fine job and this certainly should publicize the book nicely in your area.

Congratulations are also in store for the excellent article which you wrote for the Numismatist. I especially enjoyed your blast at the current trend of making struck copies, "restrikes", etc.


The Oak Tree shillings were news to me. Are they prevalent in this country? If they are generally for sale, I would like to have one for my reference collection of fake coins.

Sales of the Fantastic 1804 book are slow but steady. We seem to have moved approximately 2,500 copies already. This is not earth-shaking but I can see where the book will be a standard, perhaps even a classic for many years to come.

Kindest personal regards to you and the family.

Sincerely,

WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY



Ken Bressett
Numismatic Editor

KEB:jam

Memo From -

KEN BRESSETT

February 7, 1963

Dear Eric:

Regarding the recent advertisement in Coin World showing a full page of WHITMAN books but omitting the 1804 dollar book, I would like to say that due to some slip-up, we never received their notification that this special issue was to be published, and at the last moment we had to make a decision to run some sort of a full page ad to support their editorial comments concerning our books. We decided to use this full page ad from a full yearago. Only the edition numbers were changed and no new products were added. It is a rather incomplete and poor ad but we thought it would be better than nothing.

Thanks for your constant watchfulness. I am always happy to know that at least someone reads our advertisements.

When are we going to do something with the continental currency project? I'm still waiting to hear from you.

'sever,



KEB:jam

February 7, 1963

Mr. Kenneth Bregsett
Whitman Publishing Company
1220 Mound Avenue
Racine, Wisconsin

Dear Ken:

Thank you for your letter of February 4. The blast in our local newspaper was tremendously popular and endless people read it in detail. This is the type of thing which I hoped could be obtained nationally for both of us so that it would help sell the book. Frankly, I am disappointed that more books have not been sold.

As to the Oak Tree shilling forgeries, I have only run across four and they have been sold for \$30 each in England. I, like you, would like to have one for my reference collection but it would have to be given to me as I will not purchase a fake because I feel it encourages faking by doing so. I did not realize you had a nice collection of fakes. I have a few duplicates and perhaps you do. Maybe we can fake each other out.

With respect to reproductions, you are going to see a lot of news shortly. The TAMS Committee is going to take the position that no reproductions should be sold or offered for sale by anybody or advertised even. This will be subject to adoption by Coin Clubs, etc. I hate to waste time trying to improve the morals standards of coin collecting but I was asked to do this dirty job and am going to give it my all. A tentative draft of the code which our committee are about to propose is enclosed.

With kindest personal regards,

Sincerely,

EPN/atb

ERIC P. NEWMAN

February 15, 1963

Mr. M. Joyce Hartney
9216 Clayton Road
St. Louis 24, Missouri

Dear Joyce:

I have to thank Dick and
you for going to so much trouble over
the little newspaper article about my
last book.

Don't worry, you won't have
to read it, but it was nice of you to
threaten.

Cordially,

ERIC S. WEAR

EPH:EM

JOYCE PORTNOY

February 13, 1963

Dear Eric:

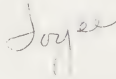
Congratulations! I leave town for a few days and you make the front page of the family section.

It looks like I am going to have to read my first book on coins. Will you autograph it for me?

Do you think it will come out in a paper-back soon so I won't have to spend so much money?

Love to you and Evelyn.

Good wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joyce", with a small flourish at the end.

JP:bkt

February 18, 1963

Mr. Kenneth Bressett
Whitman Publishing Company
1220 Mound Avenue
Racine, Wisconsin

Dear Ken:

The Kosoff letter of February 11, 1963 indicates an unfortunate frame of mind. It may be that the book hurts his purse in the event he owns an interest in the Hydaman 1804. He also may be smarting over the vitriolic bath Walter gave the "Illustrated History". You may not know it but Don Taxay is also giving the fence sitting comment a hard time in the text of a book soon to be published and the text was first submitted to Abe for comment by John Ford. Abe's comment is a gem and is inconsistent as he has one opinion for the record and a different private opinion for another record. Abe may also be disappointed that his opinion is not sought as Judge and though the Oatheimers have sought it (any port in a storm) I don't know who else has or even cares any more about the Zerbe pieces.

I would like you to send me a copy of Abe's October 5 letter to you and your answer then as well as your answer to his February 11, 1963 letter, deleting any other than 1804 matters. Whether you nor I wish to get into a mud slinging contest with Abe but if "public acknowledgment" is really meant he is going to get both barrels from me even though he writes you and not me. We both thought that he was being let off lightly with the comment in "The Fantastic". Nothing Spink disclosed in Detroit affected the Zerbe coin matter one iota.

As to the 1836-1834-1830 etc. comments, he is just peeved that we did not make asses out of ourselves and were saved by the bell. I still do not know what you knew about the Spink talk other than it related to the 1804. That, as well as the Werner-Oatheimer deal, is all the confidential matters I really have on my "want" list for 1804.

I was duly impressed by Abe's complete lack of comment on the 1804 book. He uses the technique of asking questions to throw doubt. Maybe he did not like the book after all. We have weathered worse storms together. This one is only a strong wind.

Cordially,

EPW/att

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION
SOCIETY



2-15

Dearest Evelyn -

It's been a

long time between letters & much
water has gone under the bridge
rest-cc-pas

Have wanted to write to you
& ever since I read all about
his successful literary efforts. As
I recall - I saw it in various
papers in addition to the St Louis
paper. Now I know why you
take all those trips - you've been
searching for that dollar ☺

The Scholarship were very prompt
with their letter telling me how
much in \$'s I had donated
last year. Much to my embarrassment
during the course of full-lifting
my bedroom I have misplaced
that valuable document. As a
matter of fact, I know I gave
it to someone & actually He's the
culprit. The amount we recorded
- & it was 547.50 However
I do need to have it in black &
white from the shelf for my
records. Would you be a Doll
& ask someone to send me another
statement?

The word in my life is a
big one & not easy to fill. One
can delight in things but this

has a different story.

Here at home all is pretty much
business as usual. Children are here - eyes
- thinking about college - the school
would like her to go East as they
but she is Eastern School student -
idea quite late when about it - the
school expense is monumental.

Doesn't her ever have to look for
her home in the Far East - you
would just need bring you are
only & it really is not far.

Wishes you in a long-suffering
the author & in sending best
regards to mother & father.

Love fully

John

Monday

February 22, 1963

Mr. Kenneth Bressett
Whitman Publishing Company
1220 Mound Avenue
Racine, Wisconsin

Dear Ken:

I suggest that you write a letter with the following content if it meets with your approval:

"Eric and I have given consideration to your statement that a 'public acknowledgment is very much in order' with respect to the comment on page 107 of 'The Fantastic 180h Dollar' relating to what you published. We both believe that a public airing of this matter will not be advisable. We hope that, upon reconsidering the matter, you will also agree.

"I had no prior knowledge of the content of Eric's Atlanta address until it was delivered but call your attention to the fact that your published comment that its argument were 'weak and inconclusive' and 'far from conclusive' were somewhat uncomplimentary to him, and perhaps unnecessary.

"If you still feel that you want a public statement on behalf of Eric or myself you will have to ask for it publicly rather than by private letter as neither of us have any present intention of appearing to be the aggressor in further publicizing this matter. There are many more interesting things to which we or you can devote our attention."

* * * * *

Never a dull moment!

Sincerely,

EPN/atb

ERIC P. NEWMAN

Frankenthaler and Kohn

GEORGE FRANKENTHALER
HENRY KOHN

120 BROADWAY
NEW YORK 5, N. Y.
RECTOR 2-6676

February 25, 1963

Eric P. Newman, Esq.
Edison Brothers Stores Inc.
400 Washington Avenue
St. Louis 2, Missouri

Dear Eric:

Anne and I tried to reach you last night by telephone but you were not in. The purpose of our call was simply to state how delighted we were to have Linda with us. We always knew she was a great gal but it is always a pleasure and a joy to observe such a beautiful and civilized person at close range.

Secondly, I want to thank you for the book on the 1804 dollar. This is on my bed table and I am dipping into it with great pleasure, aware of the endless hours that you have devoted to unraveling the mystery.

I am planning to leave New York at 3:20 P.M. on American Flight 87 FR and arriving in St. Louis at 5:49 P.M. I see no reason for you to meet me at the airport as it should be no trick at all to pick up a cab which will bring me to your home.

Sincerely,



HK:FB

1

March 1, 1963

Mr. Kenneth Bressett
Whitman Publishing Company
1220 Mount Avenue
Eau Claire, Wisconsin

Dear Kenny:

Congratulations on the really nice article written by Bill Higgin about you. You are Horatio Alger, Jr. Those who were born with a silver spoon in their mouth have a decided disadvantage.

Incidentally, what are the American Universities which assigned "The Fantastic" as a text book for English classes, or is that humor?

Sincerely,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

March 5, 1963

Mr. Charles M. Johnson
3521 Vista Street
Long Beach 3, California

Dear Charles:

Your very kind words with respect to "The
Fantastic 1804 Dollar" are sincerely appre-
ciated.

Frankly, I have never enjoyed writing a
book so much because of the endless amount
of information which had to be analyzed
in order to reach conclusions.

I particularly appreciate the fact that
you took time out to comment.

Cordially,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb



AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

Chartered by Congress

CHARLES M. JOHNSON, Board of Governors
8521 Vista Street
LONG BEACH 3, CALIFORNIA

February 27, 1965

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St Louis 5, Missouri

Dear Eric:

I have just finished reading from cover to cover the scholarly work on "the Fantastic 1804 Dollar" in which I especially enjoyed the background material on the U. S. mint and its operation.

I sincerely believe this is one of the most interesting and informative works published in the area of U. S. numismatic literature and that it is destined to become an outstanding classic.

Thus, I am writing to you as one of the principal contributors to tell you how much I have enjoyed it. Please include me in your fan club, not only for this achievement, but also for the other works of lasting interest which you have produced.

Kindest personal regards and best wishes. Please keep up your good work.


Charles M. Johnson

March 13, 1963

Mr. Abe Kosoff
P. O. Box 456
Encino, California

Dear Abe:

Eric and I have been in correspondence over the situation concerning mention of you on page 107 of the Fantastic 1804 Dollar book.

We both respect your feelings about this matter but are in agreement that we would not like to have a public airing of this matter. We certainly would not wish to have any mud-slinging connected with any of the parties involved and do not feel that our personal differences of opinion should be forced upon the general public.

I am not certain exactly what you had in mind in the way of satisfaction, but I do not believe you should want it in the way of controversial letters published in Coin World in the manner that some people have been conducting themselves recently.

I would like to point out that I had no prior knowledge of the contents of Eric's Atlanta address until it was delivered, and I felt that your comment that Eric's arguments were "weak and inconclusive" and "far from conclusive" were somewhat uncomplimentary to him, unnecessary and, in fact, quite blind to the truth. His arguments were, in fact, based on very sound numismatic evidence.

If you feel that the Ostheimer coins should be debated further, then perhaps you would be willing to write an article containing your views and have it published so that Eric could make a public rebuttal citing that this was not properly explained in the book.

It is difficult to discuss this matter by mail. Perhaps I will see you at the Central States Convention in Chicago next month and we can have a nice long talk.

Sincerely,

WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

Kenneth E. Bressett
Numismatic Editor

KEB: jam

March 26, 1963

Mr. Robert Goldberg
Goldway Shoe Corp.
105 Rantoul St.,
Beverly, Mass.

Dear Bob:

You will remember that I sent you some official material to stamp with a name if you could conveniently do so. If it is inconvenient, please do not hesitate to say so.

Kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

ERIC S. THOMAS

EW/atb

March 29, 1963

Mr. F. H. Greaser
Hess Brothers
Allentown, Penna.

Dear Mr. Greaser:

Thank you for your kind comments with respect to my book which Bernard sent. I hope that you still feel the same way if and when you read it.

The quality of the workmanship is a tribute to Whitman Publishing Company which is, as you may know, the large publishing division of the Western Printing and Lithographing Company. A particular effort was made to reproduce the photographs with clarity and to give the book an appealing appearance. I have never had anything privately printed and I find that publishers are very proud of a nice looking item.

I am hopeful that the mutually beneficial relationship between Hess's and Edison Brothers will continue long into the future and that in the course of it I will have the opportunity of meeting you.

Cordially yours,

ERIC F. HANNA

EFH/atb

bc

Mr. Bernard Hess



ALLENTOWN, PA.

FROM THE OFFICE OF

Executive Vice President

Eric P. Newman, Secretary
Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.
400 Washington Avenue
St. Louis 2, Missouri

Dear Mr. Newman:

Mr. Bernard Edison spoke of you recently and the problems you recently had in finding facts, presenting them in a clear cut fashion and I am quite happy to have the book which you so kindly autographed and which Mr. Edison mailed.

Having only arrived this morning I have not had time to digest it thoroughly, but am planning on doing so when I am a bit more relaxed, because it is an interesting subject, interestingly presented and seemingly well documented. The book, by the way, is done so well it seems to be privately printed. The cover, the quality of the paper and the binding will, I am sure, permit a long life and many reviews. My attention was particularly called to this after observing the last paragraph on page 99, the many interesting facts and pictures and possibly above all, the stamping of the name on the cover. The effect on the lettering on the cover seemed to have what I believe you call a reeded edge and this seems to have been done in the same manner that Edison Brothers and certainly yourself, from the evidence in my possession, do things.

Thanking you for your kindness, I am,

Very truly yours,

HESS BROTHERS



P. H. Greaser

March 25, 1963
PHG:jnb

Mr. Howard Lotsof
57 E. Central Ave.
Bergenfield, N. J.
April 4, 1962

Coin World
Sidney, Ohio

To the Editor,

For the past few months Coin world has been full of letters criticizing the dealers who make restrikes from old dies and sell them for a big profit.

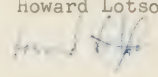
modern
in defense of them, it can be said that these restrikes are always advertised as restrikes. Nobody can be foolw'd.

I have just looked at an auction catalogue put out by one of the largest dealers in the country. In it there is an 1804 silver dollar -- a restrike. Nowhere in the dealer's 5-page description is it mentioned that the coin is a restrike. Nowhere is it mentioned that the coin was struck about 40 to 50 years after it was dated.

If the TAMS is so anxious to keep the collector well-informed and to curb undesirable practices, why wasn't pressure put on this dealer to play the game ~~fixxx~~ fairly? Or are the larger dealers "immune" from pressure?

Yours Truly,

Howard Lotsof



8226 Dorchester Street
Spring Valley, Calif.
April 16, 1963

Mr Eric P. Newman
Attorney at Law
400 Washington Ave.
St. Louis 2, Mo.

Dear Mr. Newman,

Thank you for your letter of March 20, 1963. In accordance with your suggestion that I present the TAMS Code of Ethics for the approval of the club. so--- I presented the TAMS Code of Ethics to the La Mesa Numismatic Society at our regular meeting on April 15, 1963 after some discussion the motion was made as follows; The ~~XXXXXX~~ La Mesa Numismatic Society accepts the TAMS Code of Ethics with the exception of Section V which allows for certain old restrikes and copies of the 18th and 19th Century to be considered acceptable. This Society believes that a restrike is a restrike and that all should be banned in the Code. This motion was passed unanimously.

For your background history on this club Russ Rulau was President two years ago and he pretty well brainwashed us on replicas and restrikes. At that time the La Mesa Group voted to advise the San Diego Inter-club Council that we were opposed to all copies etc. The Inter-club took a stand but it was not too firm and hedged to a large extent. I can find out the exact action if you are interested. Probably Rulau can tell you if you ask him. He was in the middle of it. (ncherly) The above motion is pretty rough on all the boys with the old restrikes, but since most of us do not own any or ever expect to own any we can afford to be real righteous.

The International Numismatic Society of San Diego was founded in July of 1962 and I think you will find that article VII of the enclosed constitution pretty well covers the subject and should not need any further explanation. I notice that we have not covered the advertising angle so will have to bring that up for amending the Section. This club puts out an "INTERCOIN" that we are very proud to show around.

I have read your book on the 1804 Dollar and have found it a very masterful coverage of the subject and presented in a very interesting manner. It is a fine piece of Numismatic research, and I am sure that you and Mr. Bressett are justifiably proud of it.

If you want the above motion on La Mesa letter head paper or any thing further that I can do to aid in this restrike business please let me know. excuse the typing.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman
Eric P. Newman

8226 Dorchester Street
Spring Valley, Calif.
April 16, 1963

Mr Eric P. Newman
Attorney at Law
400 Washington Ave.
St. Louis 2, Mo.

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If you want the above motion on La Mesa letter head paper or any thing further that I can do to aid in this restrike business please let me know. scuse the typing.

Sincerely,


Edw. P. Beals

April 30, 1963

Mr. Kenneth Frankel
Whitman Publishing Company
1270 Mound Avenue
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Ken:

Joe Isloff and I have been representing like old times so please do not apologize or even bring up the irritating matters, unless he does, and then don't apologize.

We want us to come up in the national clearing working on the ethics matter and I am thinking it over. Apparently PMG is on the spot to do something about it and there is substantial disagreement among them.

I noticed the prominent ad of The Fantastic and I am sorry that the text of the ad was not changed. It would sure be an idea you might to get some of the comments received in the ad rather than the same routine. It is rather timely in view of the Wolfson sale, however. Perhaps the comments about the book would be a little less direct, coming from Whitman Publishing Company, but it is not often that a non-existent book gets "big" noticed.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. JOHNSON

EPJ/sib

April 16, 1963

Mr. Kenneth Bressett
Whitman Publishing Company
1220 Mound Avenue
Eacine, Wisconsin

Dear Ken:

She and I have been corresponding like old times so please do not apologize or even bring up the irritating matters, unless he does, and then don't apologize.

She wants me to come up to the Central States meeting on the ethics matter and I am thinking it over. Apparently FNU is on the spot to do something about it and there is substantial disagreement among them.

I noticed the prominent ad on The Fantastic and I am sorry that the text of the ad was not changed. It would seem to me that you ought to put some of the comments received in the ad rather than the same routine. It is rather timely in view of the Halfan sale, however. Perhaps the comments about the book would be a little lazier, coming from Whitman Publishing Company, but it is not often that a numismatic book gets "rave" notices.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC F. HANNA

EFH/sbb

April 14, 1963

Mr. Kenneth Bennett
Whitman Publishing Company
1220 Mound Avenue
Eau Claire, Wisconsin

Dear Ken:

Abe Kosoff and I have been corresponding like old times so please do not apologize or even bring up the irritating matters, unless he does, and then don't apologize.

Abe wants us to come up to the Central States meeting on the 21st or 22nd and I am thinking it over. Apparently PNG is on the spot to do something about it and there is substantial disagreement among them.

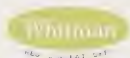
I noticed the promised ad on the Fantastic and I am sorry that the text of the ad was not changed. It would seem to be that you could go far since all the comments received in the summer like the above routine. It is rather lively in view of the Wolfson sale, however. Perhaps the comments about the book would be a little immodest, coming from Whitman Publishing Company, but it is not often that a scientific book gets "rays" noticed.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC S. WEINER

ERN/atb

W H I T M A N
P U B L I S H I N G
C O M P A N Y



Subsidiary of Western Publishing Company, Inc.

1 2 2 0 M O U N D A V E N U E • R A C I N E , W I S C O N S I N

March 12, 1963

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis 5, Missouri

Dear Eric:

I have been at home sick for the last two weeks and have neglected all correspondence. This will acknowledge your last two letters, and although I have not yet written to Abe, I will try and do so today. I will follow the general idea of your suggested letter but perhaps not word for word.

The article by Bill Higgle was very flattering. Good publicity, I guess, but a little bit away from the norm for me. I guess there was some advantage in my particular background. I have known persons who were born with silver spoons in their mouths and haven't stirred since!

The comment about the Fantastic book being used in universities was grossly overstated. It all stems from the letter written by Bob Obojski, a copy of which is enclosed. You can see there is a spark of truth in it after all.

Sincerely,

WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

Ken Bressett
Numismatic Editor

KEB:jam

March 13, 1963

Mr. Abe Kosoff
P. O. Box 458
Encino, California

Dear Abe:

Eric and I have been in correspondence over the situation concerning mention of you on page 107 of the Fantastic 1804 Dollar book.

We both respect your feelings about this matter but are in agreement that we would not like to have a public airing of this matter. We certainly would not wish to have any mud-slinging connected with any of the parties involved and do not feel that our personal differences of opinion should be forced upon the general public.

I am not certain exactly what you had in mind in the way of satisfaction, but I do not believe you should want it in the way of controversial letters published in Coin World in the manner that some people have been conducting themselves recently.

I would like to point out that I had no prior knowledge of the contents of Eric's Atlanta address until it was delivered, and I felt that your comment that Eric's arguments were "weak and inconclusive" and "far from conclusive" were somewhat uncomplimentary to him, unnecessary and, in fact, quite blind to the truth. His arguments were, in fact, based on very sound numismatic evidence.

-2-

If you feel that the Ostheimer coins should be debated further, then perhaps you would be willing to write an article containing your views and have it published so that Eric could make a public rebuttal citing that this was not properly explained in the book.

It is difficult to discuss this matter by mail. Perhaps I will see you at the Central States Convention in Chicago next month and we can have a nice long talk.

Sincerely,

WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

Kenneth E. Bressett
Numismatic Editor

KED:jam



A. KOSOFF, Inc.

• P.O. BOX 456 • AGADIR, ALGERIA

• BRAN 115005 • CABLE AKOINENCAL, LOS ANGELES

March 10, 1968

Mr. George C. Jensen
Vice President
1000 Madison Ave.
New York, Wisconsin

Dear Ken:

I have your letter of March 1st. You are certainly right - I am not
interested in being involved in the business of a company that
operates in the same way as I do.

I think that maybe the company is looking for a new owner who will
be able to take care of the business and the people who are
involved in it. I am not sure if this is the best way to
run the company, but I am not sure if I am the best person
to run it. I am not sure if I am the best person to run it.
I am not sure if I am the best person to run it.

I am not sure that the product is a very good one. It is not
the best one I have ever seen. It is not the best one I have
ever seen. It is not the best one I have ever seen.

But the simple fact that you are getting some of these things is
indicative of the fact that I have taken a stand. Now I am not
going to be about the
business of the stand because that will mean a different
business. I am simply making the point and you are making it to me that I did take a
stand whereas your book says that I did not take a stand. It's
a good point to make.

I think perhaps we can have a little talk in Chicago next month and I am
sure that you have no intention of being any more damaging to me and
the same token, you must be equally certain that I have no such
intention on my part. With best wishes



AMERICAN

American Numismatic Association, American Numismatic Society, etc.

March 22, 1963

Thanks for a copy of
Kosoff's recent letter. What
the Zerbe pieces have to do with
the Spink announcement, I do not
know.

From the desk of
ERIC P. NEWMAN

To:

Eric P. Newman
400 Washington Avenue
St. Louis 2, Missouri

Coin World
THE WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE ENTIRE NUMISMATIC FIELD
SIDNEY NEWS BUILDING
SIDNEY, OHIO

SUBJECT

Letter from Howard Lotsof

DATE

Apr. 16, 1963

Dear Eric,

I'm forwarding this letter to you for reply. For editorial reasons, the letter won't be printed in Coin World as such.

I'm pretty sure the writer is referring to the sale of the Wolfson silver and copper coming up in New York early in May and catalogued by Stacks. Of course, he doesn't say, so it cannot be a certainty. The Wolfson copy is the Davis so-called original.

I'd appreciate a copy of your reply for information.

Cordially,


Russ

April 13, 1963

Mr. Howard Lotsof
57 E. Central Avenue
Bergenfield, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Lotsof:

Coin world has asked me to reply to your letter of April 4, 1963.

First, I wish they would publish it but they do not plan to do so. Perhaps they might suggest some way for you to rewrite it.

The Davis 1804 Dollar was written up in a somewhat similar fashion when it was offered for sale in 1954 and in 1960. The date when the coin was struck and the fact that it is a Class III Dollar (a so-called restrike) were not mentioned, as you know. In the write-up the 1878 letter of William N. DuBois is permitted to speak for itself. That letter, as I see it, is deliberately evasive in part and in error in another part. The evasiveness was pointed out in "The Fantastic 1804 Dollar" (page 96) as to DuBois' use of the words "original issue". The letter admits that DuBois knew that one 1804 Dollar in the Mint Cabinet was a restrike and the other was not. He, apparently, was uninformed that the reverse of the Davis dollar was the same die as the restrike and different from the reverse of what he calls the original issue. To be charitable, we could say that he based his opinion upon the fact that the restrike he had in the U. S. Cabinet had a plain edge and the so-called original issue had a lettered edge.

The TAMS Committee is not attempting to enforce rules against anyone. The TAMS Committee wants the various numismatic associations, societies, and publications to adopt the Code so that these organizations can act to protect their membership. The Code specifically exempts items produced at an official Mint because of the difficulty in distinguishing restrikes from originals in some coins and patterns. The Code is not intended to police auctions or dealers, except to stop sales of banned items.

You are justified in criticizing the write-up of the 1804 Dollar and I hope you can get your thoughts published somewhere. Persevere.

Sincerely yours,

April 18, 1963

Mr. Howard Lotsof
57 E. Central Avenue
Bergenfield, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Lotsof:

Coin World has asked us to reply to your letter of April 8, 1963.

First, I wish they would publish it but they do not plan to do so. Perhaps they might suggest some way for you to rewrite it.

The Davis 180h Dollar was written up in a somewhat similar fashion when it was offered for sale in 1954 and in 1960. The date when the coin was struck and the fact that it is a Glass III Dollar (a so-called restrike) were not mentioned, as you know. In the write-up the 1813 letter of William A. DuBois is permitted to speak for itself. That letter, as I see it, is deliberately evasive in part and in error in another part. The evasiveness was pointed out in "The Fantastic 180h Dollar" (page 96) as to DuBois' use of the words "original issue". The letter admits that DuBois knew that one 180h Dollar in the Mint Cabinet was a restrike and the other was not. He, apparently, was unaware that the reverse of the Davis dollar was the same die as the restrike and different from the reverse of what he calls the original issue. To be charitable, we could say that he based his opinion upon the fact that the restrike he had in the U. S. Cabinet had a plain edge and the so-called original issue had a lettered edge.

The TAMS Committee is not attempting to enforce rules against anyone. The TAMS Committee wants the various numismatic associations, societies, and publications to adopt the Code so that these organizations can act to protect their membership. The Code specifically exempts items produced at an official Mint because of the difficulty in distinguishing restrikes from originals in some coins and patterns. The Code is not intended to police auctions or dealers, except to stop sales of banned items.

You are justified in criticizing the write-up of the 180h Dollar and I hope you can get your thoughts published somewhere. Forever.

Sincerely yours,

ERN/atb

ERIC P. NEWMAN

May 17, 1963

Mr. Sam Lemoff
C/o Evangeline Shoe Company
170 Lincoln Street
Manchester, New Hampshire

Dear Sam:

As long as you are going to be in the Evangeline factory, I would appreciate it if you would follow up on my request to have the words THE FANTASTIC 1804 DOLLAR stamped, in silver, in one line, on some artificial fabric which I gave to Bob for the purpose.

If it can be taken care of without complication, would you give it a nudge. If it is creating complications, merely have them return the material as it is the only material I have.

I will appreciate your helpfulness.

Sincerely,

ERIC P. SAWMAN

EPW/sb

May 21, 1963

Dear Ken,

I notice Barford makes a big point that Stickney could have taken the train instead of the stagecoach from New York to Philadelphia. Perhaps he rode a horse!

We all need laughs and I think this entitles us to one.

Sincerely,

From the desk of
ERIC P. NEWMAN

May 21, 1963

Dear Margo,

At the Metropolitan Convention, Harold Bareford gave a talk on the 1804 dollar. You published two other talks from the educational series and I wonder if you have a copy of his talk.

Thanks.

Sincerely,

From the desk of
ERIC P. NEWMAN

Coin World

THE WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE ENTIRE NUMISMATIC FIELD

SIDNEY NEWS BUILDING

SIDNEY, OHIO

May 24, 1963

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Bros. Stores, Inc.
400 Washington Avenue
St. Louis 2, Missouri

Dear Eric,

Here is a copy of Mr. Bareford's letter to me. We tried every which way to get his speech, but as you can see, he refused us. Unfortunately, we did not have our fancy new tape recorder in New York, or we would at least have had it on tape. We have this privilege when anyone makes a talk, because it is a matter of public record. At least, that is our fourth estate in ~~presentation~~.

interpretation.

We are sorry to disappoint you. We have a follow-up letter to Mr. Bareford asking that he share his material with us at some time in the future. Next time, we will be armed transitionally. (Our new tape recorder is a small, compact job which is a battery operated transistor outfit.)

We are also investing in some terrific recording telephones which should help us in our job of covering this wonderful world of numismatics.

Sincerely,

COIN WORLD

Margo
Margo Russell (Mrs. Marion)
Executive Editor

dmr

Enc.

Harold S. Barendse

COUNSELLOR AT LAW

C EAST 45TH STREET • NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

Murray Hill 7-7120

May 10th, 1963,

Mrs. Margo Russell
The Coin World
Money News Building
Sidney, Ohio.

Dear Mrs. Russell:

I have your very nice telegram of yesterday in reference to the manuscript of my talk at the New York Metropolitan Noministic Convention.

Naturally, I am flattered; but as I told your Mr. Ames at the Convention, my talk is not yet ready for publication. I am continuing my research and I expect to have more to add to it later. Likewise, the manuscript which I used at the Convention did not include copies of documents in my possession which would be a proper part of my publication.

I am sorry that I cannot accede to your request, but I am sure that you will understand that I would not want a more pretentious effort to be spoiled by a premature release of the manuscript of my talk. I have told other subscribers that my talk was not available for publication at this time, and that I could not authorize it.

Perhaps later on, when I am adequately prepared, we may talk about it further.

Sincerely yours,

Harold S. Barendse

May 28, 1963

Mr. Edward R. Barnsley
111 South State Street
Newtown, Penna.

Dear Ned:

In this world of ego-maniacs one sometimes does not judge matters properly. The Fantastic 1804 was supposed to be sent to you from both of us and I note in Ken's October 1, 1962 letter that he refers to it as "his" book. In the Preface it is specifically stated who wrote the book, however, your nice remarks to Ken in your letter of December 4 and Ken's reply in his letter of December 10 are most appreciated by me. Ken and I have never had an argument. The fact that he might have begun on the 1804 matter before I did is one point. The fact that I put in 25 times as much work as he did is another.

As you know, I was just casually interested in the subject until I had to give a talk at the A.N.A. Convention, in 1961, and needed a topic which would be popular. Thus, in my work on the Zerbe pieces I found I had a tiger by the tail.

I can now understand why I never heard from you on the book. Actually, I was in Tunis on October 1, 1962.

I am returning your correspondence, as you suggested.

Cordially,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

June 27, 1963

Mr. Paul Cunningham
1718 Jessie Avenue
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Mr. Cunningham:

I have photocopied and return herewith your term paper. Even though it was written in April, 1963, you apparently were not familiar with the book entitled, "The Fantastic 1804 Dollar," which was published in October, 1962 and which was published by the Whitman Publishing Company. Perhaps it is well that you did not have the book available or else you would not have found your research so enjoyable.

Please don't be embarrassed because certain of the conclusions which you reached were not in accordance with the conclusions of our book. You tackled the most complex subject in numismatics and I certainly admire you for it.

Sincerely,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN:ak

Enclosure

P. S. The cover damage was caused by your masking tape.

June 27, 1963

Mr. Paul Cunningham
1718 Jessie Avenue
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Mr. Cunningham:

I have photocopied and return herewith your term paper. Even though it was written in April, 1963, you apparently were not familiar with the book entitled, "The Fantastic 1804 Dollar," which was published in October, 1962 and which was published by the Whitman Publishing Company. Perhaps it is well that you did not have the book available or else you would not have found your research so enjoyable.

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Sincerely,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN:ak

Enclosure

P. S. The cover damage was caused by your masking tape.

Paul Cappington
618 E. 1st St.
St. Wayne, Ind.

June 26, 1913

Mr. Eric R. Heron
400 Washington Avenue
Edison Brothers Store, Inc.
St. Louis 2, Mo.

Dear sir:

I was very pleased to receive
your letter of earlier.

Since you do show some interest
in your letter. I will let you see the pa-
per with gladness in my heart. Just know-
ing that you have read the paper will
reward me sufficiently for doing it.

You mentioned having a copy made
for you. I have no access at all to a
copying machine, so I will send the paper
to you in its original form. You may copy

the paper, in whole or in part.

Enclosed is money for return

Thank you for your interest. I
hope you find something new and usable in
my paper.

Sincerely,

Paul Cunningham

Paul Cunningham

June 24, 1963

Mr. Paul Cunningham
1718 Jessie Avenue
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Mr. Cunningham:

In view of the fact that you wrote your term paper on the 1804 Dollar, I am, naturally, interested as to whether you draw any new conclusions or found any new facts which were not covered in the book "The Fantastic 1804 Dollar".

I assume you have already turned it in and received a very nice grade in your English course. It certainly is an exciting subject.

Why don't you have a Xerox copy run off so that I can have a copy of your work in the extensive file I have on the subject.

It was very nice for Mrs. Russell to have you get in touch with me and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

Paul Cunningham
1718 Jessie Ave.
St. Wayne, Ind.

6-21

Dear Sir,

Mrs. Maria of Leu World
mentioned your name as an authority
on the 1804 dollar. I now con-
sider myself an authority on it; I
wrote a term paper about the
1804 dollar for a college English
course!

If you are interested at all,
I send the manuscript to you (with
return postage) for your inspection.

I have tried to present the
material (some of it quoted from
your writing) in an interesting
way, pleasurable to read by ^{either} the
layman or the numismatist. Thank you.

Sincerely, Paul Cunningham

Do 1804 Silver Dollars Really Exist?

Paul Cunningham

W. 1804 1804

April 1, 1804

1. Tests and authentications

2. Alterations

IV. Evidence that 1804 dollars were not struck in 1804

A. No date specifications

B. Mint practices

C. Mint closures

D. January, 1804, mintage of 10,500 pieces

E. Quick die changes

F. Mutilated edge lettering

Outline

I. Public interest and the romantic 1804 silver dollar

- . Parmelee specimen
- B. China-bound vessel
- C. Pirates
- D. Montana's contribution

II. Description of known pieces

- A. Davis specimen
- B. Physical description
- C. Chapman's classification
- D. Certain features
- E. Legend-cloud relation

III. Evidence that 1804 dollars were struck in 1804

- A. Mint report
- B. Stoppage of coinage
- C. Assay reservation
 - . Patterson's implication
 - . Contemporary dollars
 - 1. Discovery in London
 - 2. Tests and authentications
 - 3. Alterations

IV. Evidence that 1804 dollars were not struck in 1804

- A. No date specifications
- B. Mint practices
- C. Mint closures
 - . Formerly 1804, later a of 1, 1804 pieces
 - . die changes
 - . Inscribed edge lettering

- D. Date pinpointing
- E. Condemnation of mint practices
- G. Type III dollars

VI. Conclusions

- A. Mint records
- B. Contemporary dollars
- C. Stoppage of coinage
- D. Mint closure
- E. Certain features
- F. Employee restrikes
- G. Date pinpointing
- H. Conclusion

larily on the Mediterranean Sea. A "ransom or tribute" was usually demanded by these pirates for the release of ships and men." Supposedly, all but a few of the silver dollars "were paid

 1. The Coin Company, "The King of American Coins," Auction Catalogue, Fairbanks Collection, (December 10, 1961), p.32
 2. Joseph Hottin, Our American Money, (New York, 1960), p.80
 3. Walter Thompson, "What the Archives Reveal About 1800 Dollars," The Atlantic Southerner Magazine, (August, 1961), p.1985

... coin of 1877 ...
 ... in 1897. A Pennsylvania newspaper carried the following account: "It proves genuine, the last missing...dollar...discovered in Northern Ontario...." "There are...four places...the world. There is little reason to...the genuineness of the coin."?

As fantastic as stories of... or being found are accounts of the sales and resales of these coins. (no such fascinating account is of the R.Coulton Davis 1897 dollar specimen.

The R.Coulton Davis 1897 dollar specimen was bought... in 1897... and authenticated in 1898 by William F. DuBois, then assayer and custodian of the Mint Cabinet. It was confirmed by DuBois to be an "original" and not a "restrike" of a later date. Davis sold the dollar back to Harvath for \$1050 in 1892. George McKlein oficksburg bought it for \$1200 the same year. R.Coulton Davis again bought the dollar when it was offered at the... "Goodwill" Sale for \$600. At Davis' death, the dollar was purchased by John F. Hale of Phillipsburg, Pennsylvania, for \$650. It was bequeathed at his death to R.E. Hull. It was sold in

... "The Subject of Article in 1897," Coin World,

... By maneuvers of Davis, he wound up paying just \$110 for this particular silver dollar.

Fuller's estate in 1950 for \$3,400 to a Mrs. Fullerton, a daughter of Mr. Graves. The Davis specimen, sometimes called the Graves Specimen, was sold for the eighth time in 1954 for \$1,000.

The known 1864 silver dollars are the same size as the silver dollars of today, being 38 millimeters in diameter. The obverse (face) has the bust of Abraham Lincoln facing right. The words "ABRAHAM LINCOLN" are around the top, and the date, 1864. The reverse is dominated by a large heraldic eagle. "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" encloses the field. The eagle has a union shield on its breast. In one claw is a cluster of war arrows. In the other is an olive branch, symbolic of peace. A banner, "E PLURIBUS UNUM", crosses the eagle's neck. Above the eagle's head is a wreath of thirteen stars and an arc of clouds (see appendix).

In 1913, S.H. Chapman, a Philadelphia coin dealer, classed the 1864 dollars into four distinct groups. Classes two and three are basically the same. For reasons of simplicity, therefore, I will hereafter refer to classes two and three collectively as Type II. The classes, as described by Chapman in 1913, are as follows:

Class 1. proofs with lettered edges of about 1870. There are six specimens accounted for. These are known as "originals."

Class 2. proof of before 1870, probably about 1868, and the only specimen.

Class 3. proofs of about 1870 with plain edges (11).

Class 4. proofs of about 1870 with errors in edge lettering.¹

¹ Stack Coin Company, op.cit., p.34

² Thompson, op.cit., p.1960

...this we can assume that the 1¢ 4 dollars were not struck in 1904, but later! But how can this be? Why, then, here, and how were these coins struck?

Walter Breen, an eminent numismatist, has claimed that the 1904 dollars were made after 1936. It is a known fact that one 1904 dollar was overstruck on a Swiss dollar dated 1936.

Nearly one hundred per cent of all numismatists believe all known 1904 specimens are restrikes. It can be proved beyond convincing that any of them were struck during the 1904-1905 period. This fact is difficult to argue because of certain features of the coins. First, the edges of the coins are not clearly struck with the edge-lettering as in the earlier (1904-1905) series. Secondly, the borders have definite rims. Both of these features could possibly have been caused only by collars which were used after 1936.

This is only one way that it can be determined

9. A.M. Marin and Paul Marin, "1936 (over 1850) 1 versus 1904 1 or the Most Notorious U.S. Coin---1936 (over 1850) 1," Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine, (October, 1961), p. 2567

10. Ibid., p. 2568. (Here is absolute, irrefutable, concrete evidence that somewhat least one) 1904 dollars were minted around 1960. At the time this piece was struck, the availability of suitable metal disks (blanchets) on which the dollar was to be struck was probably very limited. Since the person striking the coins probably could not find a cheap blanchet, he simply decided to use another coin of the same size. When one coin is overstruck on another one in this manner, the original design is usually completely eradicated. In this case, the date and part of the design was distinguishable so it can be positively identified as a 1904 dollar.

11. Alfred J. Steinhilber III, "Overstruck 1904 1 Silver Dollars Authenticated," Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine, (June, 1961), p. 110

ther or new on 1.00 dollar is an "Horizontal" (struck about 1861) or "Restricker" (struck after 1861). Another absolute method is found in the relation of the reverse legend to the arc of clouds immediately beneath it. In Type I the letter "C" in "ONE" in the legend is above the right half of the cloud beneath it. In the Types II and III the letter "C" is above the space between the two clouds beneath the letter.¹

The relation of the legend to the clouds can be graphically illustrated by drawing an imaginary line from the center of the "ONE" in the legend. In the first type, the line will protrude through the right half of the cloud beneath the legend. In the second type, the line will not touch either cloud beneath the legend (see diagram).

There are many statements to support the theory that the 1864 Indian silver dollars known today were struck in 1864. The mint report for the year 1864 states 18,570 dollars were struck; and the mint report for 1865 states 18,570 dollars were struck.

There are also many statements contributing seemingly absolute evidence that the dollars were struck after that date. The evidence and statements presented hereafter will be ample proof attesting to the fact that the 1864 dollar is the most controversial United States coin, past or present.

There is some evidence that the 1864 dollars were struck in 1864. It is thought by some that they were struck early in

12. B. P. Newman, Handbook of United States Coins, 6 coins, 1864.

of the Mint ordered the
silver dollars in 1804, to prevent the
the United States Government actually would have
putting the coins into circulation. It is thought, then, that
the coins were thrown back into the melting
pot. There also is a reference to the fact that seven 1804
silver dollars were reserved for assay, meaning that the coins
were melted down. These seven coins, which nearly coin-
cide, in number, to the known Type I dollars, could very well
have been the "originals" and not the "copies".

In a letter addressed to President Thomas Jefferson
and dated May 2, 1807, Robert Patterson, the next Director of
the Mint and ex-minister, stated that no silver dollars had been
minted "during the last two years." Since the letter was dated
1807, it implies that silver dollars were struck in 1804.¹⁵

Perhaps the most exciting chapter in the 1805 dollar
story is the authentication of a contemporary 1804 and 1805
dollar. One each was discovered by Bank of London.

H. Tolander of San Francisco, California, "fully authenticated" each
at the United States Mint in the

15. The mint records state 18,500 dollars were struck in
1804. (Yorsten, Guide Book of United States Coins,
1954, p. 117)

16. Frank J. Moss, "The 1804 Dollar," Hobbies, (February,
1947), p. 11.

17. Ibid., p. 117

18. Ibid., loc. cit.

... sent the two coins to a collector in Brooklyn and from there, they found their way to Farron Herbe, the Director of the Chase Manhattan Bank's Museum of Money of the World. The owner of the coins before Herbe, ... thought that they were not like the ... dollars. ... Herbe, ... of New York, believed both pieces were "genuine, contemporarily struck pieces."

Both Herbe dollars were tested and authenticated in 1960 by both the Academy Testing Labs and Jackson's Pitkin Incorporated of New York. The obverses of both coins were found to be identical to the Stedman and Carter specimens, ¹⁹ by the reverses, though, they were only similar.²⁰ The reverse is a rather common one, now arbitrarily known as the Tolander A reverse. It was used on "six varieties of dollars dated 1901, 1902, and 1903."

Although the two testing companies did very thorough jobs of examining the two Herbe dollars, a few interesting facts did escape their attention. The coins were possibly altered from other dates. Two stars on one coin and one on the other were tampered with and retooled probably "to avoid basic similarities to a known variety of another date." Both coins have "similar star point defects at critical places." The possible alterations

18. Eric F. Newman, "Diagnosing the Herbe 1904 and 1905 Dollars," Numismatic Researcher's Magazine, (October, 1961), p.2576
 19. Ostheimer, op.cit., p.1760
 20. Ibid.

could have been done on either 1803 or 1804 dies. The fact that everybody agrees on, though, is that both are silver dollars contemporary with the 1791-1803 United States coinage.

Although much sound evidence has been presented to support the statement that the 1804 dollars were minted in 1804, there still remains an almost overwhelming amount of fact, evidence and hearsay to the contrary.

For instance, "while the official records state that a certain number of dollars were struck in 1804, they do not specify the date of the coins." The total silver dollar coinage for 1804 could actually have been 12,500 pieces, then, with the coins having been dated 1803.²¹ Not only is this possible, but it is probable because "it was the practice in those days to use old dies as long as they were serviceable with no regard in the annual reports for the dating of the coins."²²

Walter Thompson claims the 1804 dollars were struck with 1803 dies because the mint was closed between September 24 and November 1, 1803, when dies for the next year.²³ Coinage was heavy during 1803 and it seems impossible, therefore, for the mint to have made or engraved a new obverse die for the next

21. Newman, loc.cit.

22. Fred Reinfield, A Treasury of American Coins, (New York, 1902), p. 11.

23. Newman, loc.cit.

24. Lynn Glaser, "Some Undiscovered Coins," Numismatic Scrapbook, (New York, 1934), p. 251A.

1904, 10,500 dollars were struck in January of 1904. How was this possible if the mint had not made a die for the next year? There are two possible explanations. First, it could be that all 10,500 dollars supposedly struck "1904" were actually dated "1903" because they did not have time to make an 1904 obverse die.²⁵ Secondly, there are cases of dies being made "on the spot" for a type change. If the 1904's were of 1904, the dies could have been made "on the spot". This hypothesis is weak because if the dies were made "on the spot" they would have been made after November 1, 1903, and the coins would have been struck after November 1, 1903, and the coins would have been struck after the end of January, 1904.

From another angle, it seems that the 1904 dollars could not have been made before November of 1903. They appear to have been made with either a steam or hydraulic press and a "close collar" which would nearly mutilate the edge lettering on the coins. Collars of this type were introduced in November, 1903, for use with the Gobrecht dollars.²⁶ Hardier silver was struck in open collars; the edge lettering remained intact.²⁷

Robert Patterson was Director of the United States Mint in Philadelphia in the late 1890's and early 1900's. He later on

²⁵ . Thompson, op.cit., p.196

²⁶ . Glaser, loc.cit.

²⁷ . 1904-1905, Standard Catalog of United States Coins, Vol. 1, p. 1.

... addition to the
...
...
Patterson for the Mint. Gold and silver coins were sold
... into the Mint. ...

...
... no more coincidence that ...
... Patterson ...

... 150 dollar specimen was exchanged for
... old pieces, ...
...
... transaction took place because the "Win-
... Columbia" is no longer in the Mint, in the Smithsonian I-
... where it now resides. ... that Patterson
... 150 dollar to ... it is logical to assume
... all known specimens of the Type I... were ordered struck by
... Patterson and used for trading purposes to build the Mint
...
...

...
... the die for the Type I dollar. The 150 dollar, Type I, is
... similar to the famous Schreier pattern dollars of the same
...

31. ibid.
32. ibid., loc.cit.
33. ibid., on.cit., p.145
34. ibid., loc.cit.

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11

schmidt struck some pieces himself during his term as
Director (1814-1839). His successor, Franklin Pease, contin-
ued to restrike some coins and to preserve carefully many select
dies. Many of these dies departed from the mint when he left
after being discharged in 1854 for "restriking medals for pri-
vate profit." The remaining collection of dies was added to by
Pease's successor, George N. Childs.⁴¹

Several years later, in about 1856 or 1859, some mint
employees found the obverse of the "original" or Type I silver
dollar. Since the reverse was missing or otherwise not to be
found, they conveniently discovered "device punches, letter pun-
ches, and a beading punch" such as were used in the 1834-1839
period and manufactured at the mint.⁴² The 1834-1839
Class I dollars in the Mint Cabinet collection." Since they
could not find any silver dollars which were the same size as
those of the 1834-1839 period, they turned to other dollar-
size coins and minted some 1834-1839 dollars on the basis of the

These Type II dollars were peddled by the mint, and were
sold to the public, probably on the order of Adam Schmidt. He re-
ceived three-fourths of the money from the employees at the mint and from the
public two-thirds each, while holding the third. It is not known
whether he split the money with the employees or not.

When Director Snowden discovered the "fiasco," he had
the two 1834 dollars seized, he having turned "liberalistic at

41. Breen, loc.cit.

42. Ibid.

the prospect of others "being in the market" [for rare coins]. Jacob Eckfeldt returned the third voluntarily and it subsequently found its way into the Mint Cabinet.⁴⁴

These 1804 dollars are called the Eckfeldt dollars. The Mint Cabinet, or Smithsonian, piece is the notorious Swiss Shooting Thaler 1804 dollar. Several electrolyses exist in this type, one of which was produced in copper by a Mint employee, Mr. William DuBois, about 1860.

Although the 1804 Types II and III dollars were supposedly struck about 1860 and 1866, respectively, the actual dates of the strikings can be almost pinpointed by a document which states an 1804 dollar die was sealed in a box, along with several dozen other dies, on July 30, 1860. The box was resealed May 16, 1867, after the approximate date that the 1804 Type III dollars were struck.⁴⁵ Snowden probably seized the three Type II dollars known to Jacob Eckfeldt, and the culprit die in late June or early July of 1860 and sealed them in a box, along with the other dies, hoping to end the questionable practice of re-striking rare coins for the use of collectors. He had been bothered by collectors seeking 1804's after the word got out that there were a few around and that they had originated at the Mint.

44. *ibid.*

44. Raymond, op.cit., p.172

45. Walter Thomson, "The 1804 Dollar Die and Others Found at the Mint in 1867," Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine, December, 1867, p.218.

not only because of the time involved in making it. And the records do not specify the dates on coins minted in particular years, we can safely assume that the dollars struck in 1804, if they were struck at all, were dated 1804.

Features of the coins are positive evidence that they were not struck before 1806. The edge lettering on the coins was utilized by a collar used not before 1806. Earlier lettering remained intact.

We know Patterson struck many different coins. We also know that he traded coins, even which was an 1800 silver dollar. By this we can assume, with very little doubt, he struck or had struck a number of 1804 dollars.

Even if we assume that he did not during Snowden's term as Director, it is very doubtful that he struck, had struck, or even knew about the 1804 dollars. He denied the rumors about them. He made many statements denying even the existence of the dollars before that time he first discovered them. In regards to the three letters in particular, he flatly denied he knew anything. The letter from the Boston Numismatic Society, although it implies Snowden knew about the 1804 dollar, actually states that he "pre-emptorily" denied knowledge of the fact of its existence.

Although Snowden probably did not know about the dollars up to a certain time, about the middle of 1806, we know he knew about them later, because he seized three of them. The ones he seized are the Type II dollars, sometimes called the Eckfeldt Backstrikes. We know they exist, too, because one of them is in

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Dollars reversed for assay-6

Dollars reversed for assay-6

Dollars reversed for assay-6

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Restrikes-15

Restrikes-15

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Graves, Mr.-3

Haseltine, John H.-2

Hull, R.H.-2

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BLUFFTON, INDIANA

This seems to me to be a very fine piece of work. You have taken a specialized subject and have it clear and extremely interesting to the reader whose knowledge in the field is general, if not sparse. Your conclusions, now logically--to my mind, inevitably--out of the data you present. Your own grasp of the subject is excellent and your organization is very good.

Minor errors have crept in, however.

1. You have some spelling errors (many of them no doubt typographical) which you did not catch in proof reading.
2. When you refer the reader to the appendix, you should give the page reference.
3. Your footnote numbers at the bottom of each page should be raised above the line of type like this:

HOW READ IN: DO NOT SWICH THIS AWAY AT THIS POINT; REMOVE WHOLE BASKET FROM ROOM.

Admittedly, this is a minor point. Your footnotes are clear, just as easy to read as mine, and no doubt really just as good. But my footnote is according to the form used in many scholarly publications and is the one your book recommends. This is a detail, to be sure--but graduate schools the country over are filled with college professors to whom such minor points are meat and drink. There are professors who would use details like footnote numbers as the basis for passing or failing the course. You may go to graduate school some day--you never know; more and more people are taking graduate work--and I would be letting you go there handicapped--in essence, throwing away your life. I'll tell you all your reasons to be sure, but your footnotes are not written in the form set up by your text book. I know you don't think this is important; but some day, some professor who has the veto power over your master's degree may consider it important.

Nevertheless, I consider the paper as a whole very good. If you know of any magazine which publishes this kind of article, and if the subject has not already been adequately covered (lately, at least), try sending it away and find out what some editor thinks of it. You may have to revise it some. I suggest a letter of inquiry first (postal rates being what they are) to see if the editor is interested. I quit using red ink when I thought of your having to type it over--you may be able to use some pages without re-copying. Good luck--and if you do submit it to an editor, let me know how you come out.

July 2, 1963

Mr. R. Coppola
J.C. Coin Shop
Flushing, New York

Dear Mr. Coppola:

Having done a great deal of work on the 1804 dollar I am very interested in the report of your findings as published in Coin World for July 5, 1963, page 63.

Would it be possible for you to send me as large a photograph as you have of each side of the coin in question?

If you have the weight that would be helpful. I would also like to know the condition of the edge.

Your cooperation will be most appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

August 13, 1963

Mr. Don Taxay
New Netherlands Coin Co.
1 West 47th Street
New York 36, N.Y.

Dear Don:

The complaint about the attribution of the Wolfson 1804 Dollar and my comment was published on page 58 of the May 10, 1963 Coin World.

As to the 1913 Liberty Head nickels, two were proof-like and three were definitely uncirculated only. When I say "proof-like" they were certainly not "mirror-like". I do not recall any evidence which would indicate what kind of a press they were struck on.

I will be glad to see anything which you write on either of these controversial subjects.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atc

Aug 19, 1963

Mr Eric P Newman
6450 Cecil Ave
St Louis, 5 Mo.

Dear Mr Newman,

I have enclosed a set of photos for you friend I thought he might like them .

I would be very pleased if we can get together on a Trade for my 1804 dollar. To be sure I honestly didnt know it was a alteration as you stated , but if you believe it to be so I wouldnt doubt your word.

To ask you, or tell you what I want in Trade is very hard because I dont know waht you have to Trade with? If you would send me a list of coins that you do have to Trade with I can pick out the coins ~~that~~ I would care to have.

I had a Ad in the coin World to Trade the Dollar and had many requests, but It would please me for you to have it. I trust we will get together.

Respectfully Yours

Eugene W. Favata
Mr Eugene W Favata
43-44 185th St
Flushing 58 L.I.









August 15, 1963

Mr. Eugene W. Favata
43-44 195th Street
Flushing 58, New York

Dear Mr. Favata:

Thank you for the photo of your 1804 dollar.
It is an alteration, as you know.

I would be interested in having it and so
would a friend of mine so if you can indicate what
you might want in trade that would be of interest.

I appreciate very much your kind remarks
with respect to the book on the 1804 dollar. It
was a very exciting adventure.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPV/abb

Aug 8, 1963

Mr Eric P Newman
400 Washington Ave
St L uis 2 Mo.

Dear Mr Newman,

In Answer to your letter of July 2, 1963 to Mr Coppola
regarding my 1804 doller,

Enclosed please find enclosed photos as you requested.
The weight is the same as type 3 as described in your book, less a grm.
I have read your book with great interest and satisfaction in you story
of this Great Rarity.

I have intentions to Trade my 1804 as a filler If by
chance you know of some one that might be interested I would more then
appreciate it.

If I can help in any way please write and tell me, your
opinion will be regarded with great respect.

Respectfully Yours

Eugene H. Fawcett

Mr. Eugene H. Fawcett
102-14 136th Street
Flushing 35, New York

August 27, 1963

Mr. Kenneth Bressett
Whitman Publishing Company
1220 Mound Avenue
Racine, Wisconsin

Dear Ken:

I was in Mongolia during my vacation and was gone at the time of the A.N.A. Convention. The balloting surprised me not only with respect to the improper ballots but also the outcome of the presidential election. I am at least glad that the A.N.A. adopted something with respect to copies of coins but still believe that marked copies are a menace and a detriment even if there are others that do not. I do have a lot to talk over with you whenever our paths can be arranged to cross again.

In the August 30, 1963 Coin World you are quoted as having said that genuine British halfpence of 1770-1775 were melted down to make counterfeits. I am very interested in the source of this statement and wonder if you made it at all. On the same page Maurice Gould is quoted with respect to 1749 English pennies and, unfortunately, there were none.

What do you think of writing up a little addendum to our book and adding such material as has turned up in comments and research since its publication? It would be very short.

I certainly hope you and yours had a pleasant summer.

My very best wishes,

Sincerely,

September 10, 1963

Mr. Kenneth Bressett
Whitman Publishing Company
1220 Mound Avenue
Racine, Wisconsin

Dear Ken:

Your pleasant letter of September 3,
1963 is at hand.

I am glad you like the idea of writing
an addendum to our book. If I do write such
addendum I believe the nice comments received
with respect to the book should be added in
some editorial note to accompany the addendum
unless you are the editor and it would be
immodest. Whether I can finish by December 16
is a problem as my daughter is being married
late in October and all activities are aimed
toward that event. I have all the new material
in one heap.

Have you heard my new joke..... that
the A.N.A. should pass a resolution providing
that all counterfeit ballots must be marked
"reproduction" or "copy" or else they will
not be acceptable.

Kindest regards, as always,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

WHITMAN
PUBLISHING
COMPANY



Subsidiary of Western Publishing Company, Inc.

1220 MOUND AVENUE • RACINE, WISCONSIN

September 16, 1963

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Brothers Stores
400 Washington Avenue
St. Louis 2, Missouri

Dear Eric:

Congratulations on the forthcoming marriage of your daughter. I can see where the activities of this big event will take precedent over any of the writing which you may do, and I want to assure you that there is no pressing need for the 1804 commentary.

Why not just plan to work this article up in some leisure moment and not worry about the December 16 publication date. Actually, we have the first issue filled and are now looking for articles for the second or third number. I will plan to keep some space open for whenever you advise me that you can have the article finished.

I relayed your ANA joke to the fellows in the office and to some of my coin club friends last week. Everyone got a big chuckle out of it.

I still do not think much of the idea of publishing the nice comments received about the '04 book. I could not do this as an editorial, since I am the editor of this new magazine, and you are right--it would be rather immodest.

Kindest regards to all.

Sincerely,

WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

Ken Bressett
Numismatic Editor

KEB:jam

November 8, 1963

Mr. Kenneth Bressett
Whitman Publishing Company
1220 Mound Avenue
Racine, Wisconsin 53404

Dear Ken:

Good luck on the Whitman Numismatic Journal.

I have substantially written the episode on new matters concerning "The Fantastic". I will send them to you for your suggestions.

Do you know whether the Wolfson sale actually was a sale of the 1804 dollar - or do we list it as "undisclosed"?

My very kindest regards to you.

Sincerely,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

November 29, 1963

Mr. Kenneth Bressett
Whitman Publishing Company
1220 Mound Avenue
Racine, Wisconsin

Dear Ken:

I have finished writing the additions to the 1804 Dollar and am putting them in shape to submit to you.

I have a picture of the top of the Siam box which I think should be published. Do you have a print of that picture so that it is not necessary for me to forward mine? I also want to know if you feel it is worth while to try to determine the die varieties of the other coins in the Siam set. Do you have a picture of them? and do you think it has value to check their variety, at least the half dollar, quarter, dime, cent, and half cent? I do not have good pictures of the cent and half cent.

My best wishes to you.

Sincerely,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb